American Studies- Projects- 2 to 3 people per project

A document, a movie, an event and three interviews and/or primary document recollections- 1945-1980

1. Suburbia-

Document- GI Bill

Movie- Pleasantville or American Graffiti or Revolutionary Road (filmed right here in Darien!) or Ordinary People

Levittown- America’s First Suburb

1. Civil Rights
   1. Document- Brown v. Board of Ed.
   2. Movie- the Help or Malcom X or 42 (Jackie Robinson)
   3. Little Rock Nine (1963)
2. Environmentalism
   1. Document- Silent Spring
   2. Movie- Erin Brokovich, China Syndrome or Silkwood or A Civil Action
   3. Love Canal
3. Feminism
   1. Document- Gloria Steinem 1970- Washington Post Op-Ed Piece
   2. Movie- Thelma and Louise or Nine to Five or the Color Purple
   3. Equal Rights Amendment fight of the 1970s
4. Baby Boomers
   1. Dr. Spock on child rearing--http://neamathisi.com/new-learning/chapter-5-learning-personalities/dr-spock-on-permissive-child-rearing
   2. A Walk on the Moon or the Graduate or the Big Chill or Forrest Gump
   3. Chicago Convention of 1968
5. Native American Rights
   1. Proclamation to the Great White Father
   2. Little Big Man or Dances with Wolves
   3. AIM Siege at Wounded Knee
6. Gay Rights
   1. Document- American Psychiatric or Decriminalization of Homosexuality 1970s

<http://www.nytimes.com/1973/05/10/archives/doctors-urged-not-to-call-homosexuality-illness.html>

* 1. Harvey Milk or Philadelphia or Dallas Buyer’s Club or Brokeback Mountain
  2. Stonewall

1. Cold War
   1. Marshall Plan (George Marshall)
   2. Dr. Strangelove (dark comedy) or Falcon and the Snowman
   3. Cuban Missile Crisis
2. Space Race
   1. John F. Kennedy Nasa Speech <https://www.nasa.gov/vision/space/features/jfk_speech_text.html>
   2. The Right Stuff
   3. July 1969- First Landing on the Moon
3. Vietnam
   1. Gulf of Tonkin Resolution or Pentagon Papers
   2. Coming Home, Deer Hunter or Born on the 4th of July or Platoon
   3. Tet Offensive
4. Civil Rights II
   1. Letter from a Birmingham Jail
   2. Mississippi Burning or Guess Who’s coming to Dinner or the Butler
   3. Assassination of MLK (4/68)
5. 1950s and the Cold War
   1. Joseph McCarthy enemies within http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/6456
   2. Quiz Show, Goodnight and Goodluck
   3. House on Un-American Activities Committee

Requirements

1. Analysis of primary document----------25 points due by end of class Monday 5/22. Do not answer each of the below questions as a checklist but include those answers in a narrative.
   1. Who issued the document (delve into this- not simply a name)
   2. What’s the context?
   3. What’s does it literally say and why was that important?
   4. What’s the tone of the document and who is the intended audience (discuss)?
   5. What’s the group impression of the document and it’s **impact** at the time?
   6. Works Consulted/Cited page
2. Movie- 25 points due end of class Wed 5/24 (you should start the film the following week, some are longer than 2 hours)
   1. One scene that particularly affected you (individually) (at least a paragraph)
   2. Another scene that you felt was overly dramatic (too Hollywood) and may causes the film to lose some historical value (individually) (at least a paragraph)
   3. Your understanding of the films accuracy and do you think it is a useful device for helping high school history classes better understand an issue or event of the period (discuss a few different parts of the film- this includes whether the setting appeared authentic)- Group
3. The Event – 25 points due Friday end of class 5/26. Again, do not answer as if this is a checklist but respond in a narrative
   1. When was it and what historical events surrounded it (give the event context)?
   2. What transpired at the event?
   3. Why was it important and why do we still reflect back on it some 4 to 6 decades later?
   4. How was this issue resolved?
   5. How is the event related to the document and film?
   6. Works cited/consulted
4. Interview or find three (one per participant) primary documents that are reflections Due prior to class prior to class Friday 5/26 10 points
5. 3 multiple choice questions and Outline based on the Presentation due prior to class Tues 5/26 and Outline 15 points
6. Presentation—50 points- due Tuesday 5/27 prior to class (Powerpoint or other file)
   1. Must include an outline for class (can’t be the powerpoint in outline form) one page in length- front and back and include the 3 multiple choice questions provided to class prior to Presentation. The outline should help your classmates follow your presentation.
   2. Incorporate the Document, Event Movie and your personal interviews.
   3. You can use up to, but no more than 5 minutes of the movie
   4. Powerpoints or other Presentation material should not be filled with words but incorporate visuals and text
   5. Be professional; which means poise, delivery, dress, familiarity with topic and enthusiasm are all relevant
   6. Presentations will be 15 to 20 minutes- We need to complete all presentations in 3 class periods

5/17 e 5/18 f 5/19 g 5/22 h 5/23 a 5/24 b 5/25 c

Due Dates

Document analysis write up- end of class 5/19 period 8, end of class 5/22 period 7

Movie- individual and group component- end of class Tuesday (5/23)

Event- end of class Thursday 5/25

Personal Recollection analysis- due prior to class 5/26

Outline and Multiple Choice Questions due prior to class 5/30

1st Presentations will be 5/30. All presentations are due that day

1 grade lost for one day late, ½ grade for every day thereafter.

You will be given up to 3 class days to work on the assignment.

To: Parents- American Studies Class

From: Steve Balazs- American Studies

Re: End of the Year Projects

To complete the period 1945-1980 the class will be divided into groups working on projects that focus upon an area of concern in the post –War period, including the Cold War, Feminism, the Environmental Movement, Gay Rights, Civil Rights and the Vietnam War. Each group will analyze a document/reading; such as the Gulf of Tonkin resolution (Vietnam group), watch, analyze and assess a movie such as Born on the 4th of July, discuss an event such as the Tet Offensive and lastly, either interview an adult who can recall the events and issues of the time or find a remembrance through research. They can interview you, a grandparent, relative or someone else.

**Part of the project involves interviewing (or researching and finding a remembrance) an adult who can recollect and describe what they recall of the event involved, their feelings when it was going on and who, if anyone, they may have known who was directly or even indirectly affected by it, and how.**

**Some of the movies that discuss these periods are PG-13 or R rated**. Below are a listing of the movies that are available to the groups. If a parent/guardian is not comfortable with their child watching an R rated movie I will find a documentary that they can watch instead.

Below are a listing of the topics and movies- Please advise at your earliest convenience if you are uncomfortable with your child watching a movie listed below because of its rating.